### HEARING

### IN THE MATTER OF

PROPOSED RULE 111
"CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY
RECONSTRUDCTIVE SURGERY
COVERAGE"

HONORABLE RUSS GALBRAITH
CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER & HEARING OFFICER
ARKANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

HEARING PROCEEDINGS
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015
at 9:00 A.M.

### APPEARANCES

ON BEHALF OF THE ARKANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT:

MR. BOOTH RAND
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### CAPTION

PROCEEDINGS in the above-styled and numbered cause on the 29th day of September, 2015, before Faith Grigsby, Arkansas Supreme Court Certified Court Reporter #686, at 9:00 a.m., in the Hearing Room of the Arkansas Insurance Department, 1200 West Third Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, pursuant to the agreement hereinafter set forth.

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#### PROCEEDINGS

### SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

HEARING OFFICER: Good morning everybody. Today is September 29, 2015, and we are here in the matter of Proposed Rule 111, Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage. name is Russ Galbraith, and Commissioner Kerr has appointed me to be the hearing officer in this matter. Present representing the Department is Mr. Booth Rand.

Mr. Rand, you may proceed.

MR. RAND: Thank you, Mr. Hearing Officer. Today we have Proposed Rule 111. I would like initially to submit into the administrative record a bunch of administrative items that we have to under the APA to qualify this for promulgation.

Exhibit Number 1 is the Insurance Commissioner's designation of hearing officer appointing you as hearing officer this morning. Exhibit Number 2 is a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing, which we're required to publicize and mail out to the industry, that was issued on August 21, 2015. Exhibit 3 is a copy of the proposed rule that we would like

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promulgated.

Exhibit Number 4 is a cover letter to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette referencing the fact that we're sending the Democrat Gazette a copy of the proposed rule and hearing date information for them to run publication of the dates in the back of the newspaper. Exhibit Number 4.

Exhibit Number 5 is a copy of the actual ad that was run in the newspaper indicating to the public the date of the hearing, the nature of the rule, and where to come to hear the rule discussed or make comments. Exhibit 5 reflects the fact that ADG ran the advertisement August 24th, August 25th and August 26th. Then on the right-hand side, Mr. Hearing Officer, of Exhibit 5 is a copy of the newspaper material that was printed and published in the newspaper explaining today's date and nature of the rule. As you know, we have to do that because, under the Arkansas Procedural Act, we have to run notice of the rule hearing three days, continuously.

Exhibit Number 6 is a copy of the electronic, what we call, blast-out in which we

notify members of the industry and licensees who have signed up to receive copies of our rules and regulations. Exhibit 6 is a copy of the blast-out confirmation that Ms. Rowland sent from the Legal Division, which all licensees and insurance companies got copies of this proposed rule and notice of public hearing.

Exhibit Number 7 is the cover letter -- as you know, Mr. Hearing Officer, we have to file all of our rule-making materials with the Bureau of Legislative Research, and fill out several items and questionnaires and impact statements for them. Exhibit Number 7 is a cover letter copy of the material that was sent to BLR.

Which Exhibit 8 is one item which went with the cover letter. It is our questionnaire. As you know, the Bureau of Legislative Research and Arkansas Legislative Council requires us to fill out these forms and answer questions related to the nature of the rule, what the benefits of the rule are, why the rule is needed, what sort of cost impact it has, if any. Exhibit 8 is Legislative Council

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questionnaire.

Exhibit 9 is another financial and economic impact statement that we're required to file with rules, with the Bureau of Legislative Research and Legislative Council. This gets into more of the details about projected cost impact. We do not believe there is any cost impact as a result of this rule promulgation on the industry, and recorded that in Exhibit 9.

Exhibit 10 is a copy of the summary of what the rule is proposed to do, what the benefits of the rule are, what the purposes of the rule are. We file our summary with BLR to give them a pretty quick shot review of why we need the rule, and members of the Legislative Council can read the summary for a good short explanation of what we're doing.

Exhibit 11 -- we are getting now into the part of the notebook where we are giving courtesy copies of notices of our rule to various State officials. Exhibit 11 is one instance of that. It is a copy of a letter to Ms. Sara Farris who, at that time, was our liaison to the AG's Office. We gave her a courtesy copy of the rule in case they have any

comments. We had received none from the AG's Office.

Exhibit 12 is the filing that we have to make with the Arkansas Secretary of State related to our promulgation of the Agency rule so that they can track and they can publish the rules for people who want to see what's going on in State agencies from the Secretary of State's Office.

Exhibit 13 is, again, one of the courtesy copies that we're required to send is to the Governor's Office. The Governor's Office received a courtesy copy of this. In addition to that, as you know, the Governor's Office has to approve our rule making, and Mr. Saffa approved our rule — or authorized promulgation of this rule on July 30, 2015, in an e-mail to the Commissioner. The Governor's Office was satisfied. They had no problems with the Department going forward with Rule 111, and so we had got their authority there that's reflected in Exhibit 13.

Exhibit 14, we have to give a courtesy copy to the Economic Development Commission in case they have any comments about impact on small

employers or businesses. Again, we don't anticipate any financial impact on employers as a result of this rule. Exhibit 15 is the section where we reserve for public comments. We have received one comment from Ozark Prosthodontics. It's in Northwest Arkansas. I believe Lori McNeel is here today, who works there. Dr. Dean McNeel sent a letter in support of the rule and our proposals here.

We may have -- Ms. Wendelyn Osborne is the leading advocate for craniofacial coverage here in the State, and led the efforts to get two Acts passed that have established coverage. She may testify after I get through explaining this rule. And at this time, I move to admit into the administrative record Exhibits 1 through 15.

HEARING OFFICER: Exhibits 1 through 15 will be admitted into the record.

(WHEREUPON, Exhibits Number 1 through 15 were marked for identification and are attached hereto.)

HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead and proceed.

MR. RAND: I'd like to give an explanation of the rule, which we do after we get these

items in. Mr. Hearing Officer, the background of this rule, the Craniofacial Coverage Mandate is derived from two Acts that have been passed by the Legislature since 2013. The Act of 2013 required insurance companies in the fully insured market, both group and individual, to cover craniofacial cleft palate congenital abnormalities.

This last session in 2015, the mandate was expanded under Act 1233 of 2015 to essentially require EBD to cover this benefit as well.

There was some dispute about whether the State employee's plan and teacher's plan was required to cover craniofacial abnormalities. This session, we amended the subchapter to make it very clear that it does apply to EBD. So we've had the craniofacial cleft palate coverage mandate in effect since 2013.

One of the problems that has occurred is the way the subchapter is structured and the way you qualify for craniofacial coverage. The Act is structured such that a national organization -- I call it the North Carolina Association, but it is the American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association. The mandate

is structured that the diagnosis and evaluation of a craniofacial cleft palate diagnosis has to be done by and approved by -- I'll just call that organization -- the ACPA approved team.

To qualify for coverage under the mandate, the ACPA has to approve and diagnose the congenital cleft palate or craniofacial disorder.

In addition, they have to supervise and evaluate the treatment plan. One of the problems that we've got, Mr. Hearing Officer, is, we've only got, I believe, one or two -- one team here in Arkansas that is approved by the ACPA, and that is at Children's Hospital.

And so, because of the way the Act is structured, with everybody having to go through the ACPA approved team, we've got only one team to do all the reviews, and so there's been a concern over a bottleneck, or a backup or lag, as ancillary provider and others around Arkansas want to treat some of these families that have children and others with these conditions. And so, instead of waiting on ACHS, the team, to do it, we need to figure out a way to broaden the ability to have these conditions approved by other ACPA teams outside

of Arkansas. There are -- Lori and Wendelyn can speak to this better than I can. There are other approved ACPA teams outside the State of Arkansas.

things. One is, it's going to permit outside the State of Arkansas ACPA approved teams to do the evaluations, to review the treatment plans by providers in Arkansas, so that we don't have to just go through Children's every time we want a diagnosis. I'm not knocking Children's, but there's only one team. And so we've got families who need evaluations, that need diagnoses, and they need supervision by another ACPA team, so that we can sort of remove some of this bottleneck. The rule allows for outside the State ACPA approved teams to do the evaluations.

And the rule does another thing, which makes it clear that, although providers within the Arkansas ACPA approved team at Children's can do the treatments themselves, to do the surgeries, to do the services, we're going to allow other providers not necessarily on that team itself at Children's to do it, as long as

these criteria are met in Section 3(a)(1). We developed a list of five requirements related to when we would allow a non-ACPA member to do the treatment.

The ACPA approved team at Children's or outside the state would still have to do the diagnosis. They would still have to provide the written authorization of the services and treatment plan. They must maintain clinical records --

HEARING OFFICER: Let me interrupt you for just one second. So in the summary it says that there are two APCA teams, but one for adults, so what is the --

MS. OSBORNE: There is only one.

HEARING OFFICER: There's only one?

MR. RAND: There is one. That is correct. At that time, I thought there were two. There is only one.

HEARING OFFICER: So the team at Children's also works with adults?

MR. RAND: I assume so.

MS. OSBORNE: No.

MR. RAND: That's right. One of the problems is, is that Children's is a children's

unit, so it is restricted just to children, which is another reason why we do need this.

HEARING OFFICER: Right. That's where I was going with that.

MR. RAND: And that is a good point. We simply don't have an adult team, and this is going to allow for outside the state ACPA approved teams to do these things.

So again, the goals of this rule is: One, to allow outside the state ACPA approved teams to do these diagnoses for Arkansas providers. And the other point to be made in this rule is that we're going to allow providers who are not in the ACPA approved team here in Arkansas to do the treatment, assuming these five conditions are listed in Section 3(1).

So again, the whole point of all these requirements is to make sure that the ACPA approved team is still involved in the diagnosis, still involved in the written authorizations and approvals, and still monitoring and reviewing what's going on when that provider is treating it.

So we're not divorcing ourselves from the ACPA team. They're being involved and kept

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into the ties with the provider who's doing the treatments outside of Arkansas. That question was raised last year and we felt like, also to allow the bottleneck to sort of reduce, we're going to let other providers do these services and not just team members.

So those are the primary purposes of the rule, and I'd be glad to answer questions. I think one of the concerns that we had -- I will just say, this isn't really pertinent to the rule and Ms. Osborne can talk about this. We have had -- due to the complex nature of congenital or craniofacial services (there's dental, there's eye, there's all kinds of things going on), we have had some coding issues, pricing issues with respect to providers, concerns over slow pay, concerns over claims payment practices that the Department is aware of, that we're trying to work with the industry to try to streamline better.

We're going to meet later on, after this hearing, with some members of Blue Cross and some others -- not just to pick on Blue Cross -- but with one of the providers about how to

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streamline more effectively some of these claims so that we don't have a lot of lag time for a lot of these families who need more quick access to coverage. So that's really not part of the rule, but I want the Hearing Officer to know that we are looking at those issues as well. ·

That's my explanation of the rule and some other things that are going on with respect to this industry, and that's all I have to say.

HEARING OFFICER: We're going to move to public comments, and I do have a list here of four people. So the first one on the list is Ms. Osborne. Would you like to come up and state your name for the record.

MR. RAND: Mr. Hearing Officer, I think some of those may be the funeral people, but I'm not sure.

HEARING OFFICER: Could be. We'll see.

MS. OSBORNE: Wendelyn Osborne. I have a craniofacial anomaly myself. Craniofacial anomalies take up two percent of the United States population. It just so happens that the condition that I have, there happens to be just over 200 worldwide. And never had any issues

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with insurance coverage -- I've always had Blue Cross/Blue Shield or some entity of it -- until HMO's came into effect. So this is why I am so passionate about the craniofacial anomalies as a whole.

I have families all across the country, in different parts of the world, that I interact with on a regular basis. And the stories that I have heard and what I've been through are really atrocious, because insurance companies, since HMO's have come into effect, want to claim the procedures we need as cosmetic. So when I worked for ten-plus years on this bill, or this law, my goal was to make it easier on these families so that they don't have to continue to file bankruptcy or take out second mortgages and things like that on their homes just so their child or loved one, or themselves, could get the care that they needed as a human being.

Now, as Booth said, craniofacial anomalies are very complex in nature, so when you're doing these procedures, more times than not, it's a two steps forward, four steps backward thing. And oftentimes, you can't -- let's just

put it this way. I know so many different people with the same exact diagnosis that are the exact same age, and they live in different states.

So I'm going to take three little guys with Goldenhar. Peter lives up in Michigan, Jeremy lives in New York State, and Ryan lives in New Mexico. They all have Goldenhar. But one thing that goes along with craniofacial anomalies, you may have Goldenhar Syndrome, but that doesn't mean you're going to have the same prognosis, because you have this thing called hereditary, that none of us can escape.

But like with Ryan and Peter, you may not think, oh my gosh, they don't look that bad.

Well, but there's a lot of stuff going on in the inside that you can't see, such as myself.

There's a lot of stuff going on with me on the inside that you can't see. And so when doctors choose to do procedures, you can't say, "You do this procedure on all Goldenhars at two years old." You can't do that. You've got to take individual cases perspectively. And what Jeremy might could have at two, Peter is not ready for.

And oftentimes, when you need these procedures, you need them then, and sometimes you don't have eight weeks, you don't have three months, you don't have twelve weeks to decide on insurance to get their act together and decide they're going to pay for this. Or, "Yes, this is approved. We cover this in our policy," and then in the ninth hour, after the procedure has been done, "Well, you need to pay us that," or "This is not acceptable." "This is no longer accepted," et cetera, et cetera. And those are the issues we're having with our families, dealing with insurance companies.

And this is not like a zero through eighteen situation. I'm 49. I will continue to need procedures until the day I die. And there are two kind of craniofacial anomalies. There are syndrome and there are diseases. Mine's a disease. And the difference is, a syndrome is when you're born with a set of characteristics that grow with you. But they don't progressively just continually get worse, they just grow with you. Whereas, a disease, they continue to go on and on and on and you have to have the procedures needed at the right

time or it could be fatal.

HEARING OFFICER: So let me ask you a question. With regard to the rule, how does that affect what you're talking about? Is this going to help in those situations? Is it going to make it more efficient?

MS. OSBORNE: As far as trying to -- when I worked on the verbiage of this law, in order to keep other medical professionals from, say, trying to file a claim on rhinoplasty and put it under our bill and it's covered, that's why we put in with the nationally approved cleft and craniofacial team and their oversight on that, to try to avoid all those frivolous cases that don't need to be covered.

Now, as far as going out to other states. There are 200 nationally approved cleft and craniofacial teams in our country. Now, y'all might think that's two per state, but it's not. Like New York City has four or five teams right there. We have one in the State of Arkansas that was started in 2009. We haven't always had that team. They did have a cleft team but not a cleft and craniofacial team. Now it's a full-blown -- and I will say, it is very rare

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and uncommon to have a cleft team and that's all they do.

Here at Children's we have a group of ENT's and they do the cleft surgeries. That is extremely rare, and it can cause some issues. Of course, our cleft team is very good. Larry Hartzel and I know Gresham Richter. They've very good doctors. They know what they're doing. However, when Lori filed a case on this one person, going by our rules, it took that physician over eight weeks to look at it and to get their approval, and that child, that patient needed the surgery sooner than that.

HEARING OFFICER: And that's the bottleneck that you discussed.

MR. RAND: Yeah. One aspect.

MS. OSBORNE: And so I had spoken with -and not every team treats every craniofacial anomaly. There is nobody in the State of Arkansas who will touch me with a ten-foot pole, other than (inaudible). But because of insurances not paying out very much for craniofacial stuff, he got out of it and he went to complete plastics. He's the only one in the State of Arkansas who has any training

for my condition.

My craniofacial team in Dallas, who's never done surgeries on me, they're no longer insurance participants, because it is a hassle dealing with insurance companies, whether it's their lack of organization on the inside, here, there and yonder. It's just too much of a hassle. So that puts a lot of strain on our families, because they have to do it all themselves. But pretty much all the teams are becoming insurance -- they're not participants anymore because of that.

So with that being said, I have talked with a craniofacial orthodontist in Dallas, on the Dallas team at Medical City, and he is willing to help with this and providing -- looking at cases to decide if Lori and her husband need to do what they need to do to say, "This is necessary," and he's willing to oversee, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. And so I haven't talked to Jeffrey Fearon, who is the team there in Dallas. He's the one I go to. I'm sure he'll be willing to participate.

Because I don't know if y'all realize that we lost our craniofacial surgeon here back in

February, unexpectedly, and he took a lot of their cases anyway, just to help him out.

Because I called Fearon and I said, "Dr.

(inaudible) passed away. Do you know that?"

So he called Children's Hospital and he said,
"Look, I'll help y'all out, whatever you need."

And so it would make things a lot easier for the families if we could go out -- I would love it if we could just go to whatever doctor a family wants to, but I knew that wasn't going to be reality. But this is the next best thing, because Children's is so backed up right now after losing (inaudible), even though they've hired two new craniofacial surgeons, I've yet to meet them.

When it took eight-plus weeks for the craniofacial orthodontist to look at Lori's stuff to get an okay on that, in order for our law to work, that's a little time consuming. So if we could spread it out to where it's not all on -- because they've got their own case loads to do, too. So if we could spread it out. I'm not saying go out of state to have these procedures, but if we can --

The one thing I really want to adamantly --

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which I've stressed to Booth and I want to make sure everybody understands, these craniofacial surgeons and teams, they need to be closely monitoring whoever is doing these procedures, because they're not on the teams, because we have a lot of things that have happened here in Arkansas. Well-intentioned doctors have done procedures, they did not know what they were doing, did not have any training or hardly any hours spent -- maybe the one or two hours they get in med school -- with craniofacial anomalies, and they mess the person up. Because I have a number of friends across the country who are having to go and have extra surgeries to correct what that well-intentioned doctor did. And oftentimes, you cannot completely fix it and it actually makes things worse.

So that's why we need to make sure that the nationally approved craniofacial team, that they're going to give their permission that they're going to be willing to oversee very closely, and that the doctor willing to do this will be forthright in telling these people who are trained in these areas, dah, dah, dah, dah,

dah. Because my only concern is the patient.

I want to make sure that they don't have to go
through any more undue processes that they
don't need to, because it's hard enough.

HEARING OFFICER: Well, it sounds like that's the direction we're going.

MR. RAND: Yeah. And her point about -- and again, we have a laundry list in Section 3(a)(1) that maintains a stranglehold still, a really good, tight fit to the ACPA approved team in terms of supervision, evaluation. So I think the goal is to always have the ACPA team knowing what's going on and controlling it. So we've got that in the rule.

HEARING OFFICER: And then on the claims issue, it sounds like we're going to discuss that. The Department is aware of some of those issues and we're going to be having further discussions on that.

Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

MS. OSBORNE: Thank you. Any questions?

HEARING OFFICER: No, no questions from me.

Lori, would you like to speak?

MS. McNEEL: I'd be happy to.

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HEARING OFFICER: If you'll just identify yourself.

MS. McNEEL: My name is Lori McNeel. first thing I want to say is, I want to commend Wendelyn. A lot of people don't take something that's difficult and turn it into something really positive. So all of her efforts are helping hundreds and hundreds of people, and I want to thank you for that.

MS. OSBORNE: You're welcome.

MS. McNEEL: We have a nice little small practice in Fayetteville, Arkansas. My husband is a prosthodontist 20 years into it. He actually did a hospital rotation of which, during his time, during the hospital rotation, became very aware and informed of patients like this, like craniofacial disorders. Consequently, we have been very forward with

working with medical insurance for about ten years now. I've worked directly with Debbie on multiple type of cases in addition to craniofacial.

Rule 111, from our side, provides access. Everyone is not zero to nineteen, who is well suited in Little Rock or at Children's

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Hospital, so there's a reference now for an adult population to go.

Rule 111 also says you can find specialists who are willing to follow under these guidelines, which are pretty stringent, by the way. To get approval from a national craniofacial team, it's not an easy thing to do, to get them to oversee what you're doing, make sure that they're agreeing with your treatment plan. So I think the forethought of adding that will ensure quality of services. And I know that's one concern, certainly, for Wendelyn. She wants to ensure that these patients are well taken care of by appropriate specialists, and oversight is there. I think Rule 111 certainly covers all of that as well.

I think that the financial relief for these patients is significant. Many patients, particularly if you have a child, moms and dads move heaven and earth to do this for their kids. I have worked with families who went through bankruptcy because of services like this, and so to know that they can potentially get an insurance company to assist them, to share some of the financial load is monumental;

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it really is.

One thing I think that may be important to state, too, while potentially not directly related to 111 is that, because of these kinds of services that the State of Arkansas is now going forward with doing -- which, by the way, I think we're on the cutting edge of the national front on this, by the way. There's a handful of states, I think, that have gone this forward, which is wonderful for the State of Arkansas.

But a lot of these families, because of all the stress related (the multiple surgeries, the difficult recoveries, the financial issues) I would tell you that probably 40 percent of the population that we serve, the children have attempted suicide. The children feel very guilty and responsible for all of these services, and the outcome of the financial burden to their families.

So I think Rule 111 helps families stay together, and I think it provides good quality services for kids and adults.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

MS. OSBORNE: Can I add one more?

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HEARING OFFICER: Sure.

MS. OSBORNE: There's so much information, it could be overwhelming. The suicide rate — I know all of y'all in here probably know Dr. James Suen, and he's a very, very dear and special person to me personally and professionally. But he has told me of several patients committing suicide because the insurance won't pay, because their child has vascular anomalies. Vascular anomalies is when your blood vessels are growing outside of your body, not inside. I mean, it's all common sense, you don't walk around with blood vessels growing outside your body and live a normal life. We live in a society that places everything on appearance.

I've had so many kids born throughout the country and they're not normal, the husband leaves. He can't handle not having a normal child. Or they go through different surgeries, this, that and the other, which is very expensive, and they end up in divorce. Because we all know that money is the root of all evil, and money is the Number One reason why people divorce. Well, when you have to go through

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trials and tribulations like this.

We also know that a Number One reason for divorce is when you lose a child, physically to death. But when you have a child that is not what the society expects it to be, that also puts a strain on the family. So this is more than just paying for surgeries, et cetera, et cetera. It's a holistic approach, and you need to do that when you're dealing with people.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Osborne.

That's the last person on the comment list.

Is there anybody else that wants to speak?

(No audible response given)

HEARING OFFICER: Anything else from you, Mr. Rand?

MR. RAND: No.

HEARING OFFICER: With that, then we will close the record and we will adjourn the hearing. Thank you.

(WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded in this matter at 9:30 a.m.)

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#### CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS )
; )ss
COUNTY OF PULASKI )

I, Faith Grigsby, CCR, Certified Stenomask
Reporter before whom the foregoing testimony was
taken, do hereby certify that the witness was duly
sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was
taken by me and was thereafter reduced to typewritten
form under my supervision; that the deposition is a
true and correct record of the testimony given by said
witness; that I am neither counsel for, related to,
nor employed by the parties to the action in which
this deposition was taken, and further, that I am not
a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
employed by the parties hereto, nor financially
interested in the outcome of this action.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that I have no contract with the parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 11th day of October, 2015upper.

FAITH GRIGSBY

Arkansas 3, 2 tooua kreme Court Certified Coumum Reporter #686

### **EXHIBIT LIST**

DATE:

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2015** 

**SUBJECT:** 

PROPOSED RULE 111 "CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY COVERAGE"

**HEARING OFFICER:** 

HONORABLE RUSS GALBRAITH, DEPUTY

**COMMISSIONER** 

### EXHIBIT # DESCRIPTION

- 1. Designation of Hearing Officer
- Copy of Arkansas Insurance Department August 21, 2015 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, concerning Rule 111 "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage"
- 3. Proposed Filed Rule 111 and copy Act 373
- 4. Copy of August 21, 2015 Arkansas Insurance Department electronic email to Ms. Pam Dicus, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette requesting notice publication
- 5. Newspaper Notice Copy of Ad which ran for 3 days in ADG and billing statement
- 6. Copy of electronic mail distribution to insurance industry regarding proposed Rule 111 and Notice of Public Hearing
- 7. Copy of Arkansas Insurance Department August 21, 2015 letter to Donna Davis of Arkansas Legislative Counsel & Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research
- 8. Legislative Counsel Questionnaire
- 9. Financial & Economic Impact Statement
- 10. Rule 111 Summary for Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research
- 11. Copy of August 21, 2015 Arkansas Insurance Department letter to Sara Farris, Office of the Attorney General
- 12. Copy of August 21, 2015 Arkansas Insurance Department letter to Secretary of State

- 13. Copy of August 21, 2015 Arkansas Insurance Department letter to Carlton Saffa, Regulatory Liaison, Office of the Governor.
- 14. Copy of August 21, 2015 Arkansas Insurance Department Letter Pat Brown
- 15. Public Comments Section. Received written public comments

# Arkansas Insurance Department

Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

### **DESIGNATION OF HEARING OFFICER**

DATE:

September 29, 2015

SUBJECT:

PROPOSED RULE 111 "CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY COVERAGE"

**HEARING OFFICER:** 

Russ Galbraith,

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-61-103(e)(1), I hereby delegate Russ Galbraith, Chief Deputy Commissioner, to serve as the Hearing Officer in the above-referenced matter. Pursuant to this Designation, Mr. Galbraith will have at his disposal all of the powers and duties vested in the office of the Commissioner of Insurance for the State of Arkansas.

Allen Kerr

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

STATE OF ARKANSAS

9-28-15

Date

## Arkansas Insurance Department

Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

DATE:

AUGUST 21, 2015

TO:

ALL ACCIDENT AND HEALTH INSURERS, HEALTH MAINTENANCE

ORGANIZATIONS AND HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SERVICE

CORPORATIONS & OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM:

ARKANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT:

RULE 111: "CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY RECONSTRUCTIVE

COVERAGE"

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Please find attached or available by electronic publication by the Arkansas Insurance Department ("Department") Proposed Rule 111, "CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY RECONSTRUCTIVE COVERAGE." The Arkansas Insurance Commissioner ("Commissioner") is filing for public comment and public hearing a proposed regulation implementing Act 373 of 2015, "An Act To Modify Coverage for Craniofacial Reconstructive Coverage." The Act addresses authorizations of craniofacial services and treatment plans by American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association approved teams.

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 23-99-417(a)(1), 23-99-417(e), 23-61-108(a)(1), and other applicable laws or rules, NOTICE is hereby given that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held on September 29, 2015 at 9:00 A.M., in the First Floor Hearing Room, Arkansas Insurance Department ("Department"), 1200 West Third Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to determine whether the Commissioner should adopt Proposed Rule 111, "CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY RECONSTRUCTIVE COVERAGE."

All interested persons are encouraged to make comments, statements or opinions to the address below or attend the Public Hearing and present, orally or in writing, statements, arguments or opinions on the proposed Rule. All licensees and other interested persons are responsible for notifying all their personnel, agents, and employees about this Public Hearing.

Persons wishing to testify should notify the Legal Division as soon as possible, and are requested to submit intended statements in writing in advance.

Direct your inquiries to the Legal Division at (501) 371-2820 or insurance.legal@arkansas.gov.



A copy of Proposed Rule 111 can be obtained or viewed on the Legal Division's Internet Web Site at http://insurance.arkansas.gov/prop-rules.htm

Sincerely,

(signed by Booth Rand)

Booth Rand

Managing Attorney

Arkansas Insurance Department

(501) 371-2820



## PROPOSED RULE 111 CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY COVERAGE

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

SECTION 3. COVERAGE REQUIREMENT REVIEW

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS
BY RECEIVED

AUG 2 0 2015

BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

This Rule is issued pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1503 which requires the Arkansas Insurance Department ("AID") to issue rules for the implementation and administration of coverage for craniofacial anomaly reconstructive surgery under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1501 et seq.

#### SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise separately defined in this rule and consistent with state law, the terms or phrases as used in this rule shall follow the definitions of such terms or phrases as defined in Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1501.

#### SECTION 3. COVERAGE REQUIREMENT REVIEW

- (a) Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1502(a)(1), a health benefit plan that is offered, issued, provided, or renewed in this state shall include coverage and benefits for reconstructive surgery and related medical care for a person of any age who is diagnosed as having a craniofacial anomaly if the reconstructive surgery and treatment are medically necessary to improve a functional impairment that results from the craniofacial anomaly as determined by a nationally approved cleft-craniofacial team, approved by the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association ("ACPA approved team") in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- (1) The services included in the coverage and benefits for reconstructive surgery and related medical care may be performed in this state by providers in an ACPA approved team that has diagnosed a craniofacial anomaly, or may be performed by licensed and qualified specialist in this state not in an ACPA approved team as long as such specialist has received: (i) a diagnosis or evaluation that the patient has a craniofacial anomaly by an ACPA approved team; (ii) a written authorization or approval of the proposed services and treatment plan by an ACPA approved team, including approval of any additional services or care, subsequent to the treatment plan; (iii) the licensed and qualified specialist agrees it must maintain clinical records and provide appropriate documentation whenever requested by an ACPA approved team; (iv) the licensed and qualified specialist must be willing to allow the member(s) of the ACPA approved team to closely oversee all treatment(s); and (v) the licensed and qualified medical specialist must also agree to the ACPA team providing ongoing review for all authorized services including accepting any limitations or withdrawal of such approvals depending on the outcome and medical needs and care of the patient.
- (2) Due to the limited number of ACPA approved teams in this state needed to perform diagnoses and review surgery treatment plans for patients with craniofacial anomalies at this time, an ACPA approved team outside this state may provide the evaluation, authorizations and review as required in Section Three



- (3) (a)(1)(i)-(v) of this rule. Nothing in this rule is intended to require a health benefit plan to provide coverage and benefits for reconstructive surgery services themselves to be performed outside this state.
- (b) Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1502(b), a health benefit plan shall also provide coverage for dental and vision care as approved by an ACPA approved team following the requirements of this section.

#### SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this Rule is November 23, 2015.

ALLEN W. K	ERR	
INSURANCE	COMMISSION	IER

## Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 373 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	A D:11	
2	90th General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2015		HOUSE BILL 1417
4			
5	By: Representatives Womack, Lar	npkin, Wardlaw	
6	By: Senator Rapert		
7			
8		For An Act To Be Entitled	
9		IFY COVERAGE FOR CRANIOFACIAL AND	
LO	RECONSTRUCTIV	E SURGERY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	S.
11			
12			
13		Subtitle	
14		TY COVERAGE FOR CRANIOFACIAL	
15	ANOMALY	RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY.	
16			
17			
18	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENE	CRAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARK	ANSAS:
19	anamrov 1		
20		s Code Title 23, Chapter 79, Sub	chapter 15, is
21	amended to read as follow		
22	Subchapter 15 — Coverage	e for Craniofacial Anomaly <del>Correc</del>	Etive Reconstructive
23		Surgery	
24	00 70 1501 7 51 1		
25	23-79-1501. Defini		
26	As used in this sub	-	. 11
27		ive surgery" means the use of su	
28		eranial facial tissues due to a	<del>congenital or</del>
29	acquired musculoskeletal		1
30		Cacial anomaly" means a congenita	<del>-</del>
31		that primarily affects the crani	al facial tissue;
32	and (2) (4) (2) (4)	(III - 1+1 h 6+ - 1 1)	3-13-31-1 11-1-1-
33		"Health benefit plan" means an	
34 35		, or contract for healthcare ser	
35		by a healthcare insurer, health m	
36	organization, nospital me	edical service corporation, or se	II-insured



1	governmental or church plan in this state.
2	(B) "Health benefit plan" includes:
3	(i) Indemnity and managed care plans; and
4	(ii) Governmental plans as defined in 29 U.S.C. §
5	1002(32), as it existed on January 1, 2013, except governmental self-financed
6	insurance organizations Plans providing health benefits to state and public
7	school employees under § 21-5-401 et seq.
8	(C) "Health benefit plan" does not include:
9	(i) Disability income plans A disability income
10	plan;
11	(ii) Gredit insurance plans A credit insurance plan;
12	(iii) Insurance coverage issued as a supplement to
13	liability insurance;
14	(iv) Medical payments under <u>an</u> automobile or
15	homeowners' insurance plan;
16	(v) Health benefit plans A health benefit plan
17	provided under Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 32, the Workers'
18	Compensation Law, § 11-9-101 et seq., and the Public Employee Workers'
19	Compensation Act, § 21-5-601 et seq.;
20	(vi) Plans that provide A plan that provides only
21	indemnity for hospital confinement;
22	(vii) Accident only plans An accident-only plan; or
23	(viii) Specified disease plans A specified disease
24	plan; and
25	(3) "Reconstructive surgery" means the use of surgery to alter
26	the form and function of the cranial facial tissues due to a congenital or
27	acquired musculoskeletal disorder.
28	
29	23-79-1502. Craniofacial anomaly — Coverage for <del>corrective</del>
30	reconstructive surgery required.
31	(a)(l) A health benefit plan that is offered, issued, provided, or
32	renewed in this state shall include coverage and benefits for corrective
33	reconstructive surgery and related medical care for a person of any age who
34	is diagnosed as having a craniofacial anomaly if the surgery and treatment
35	are medically necessary to improve a functional impairment that results from
36	the craniofacial anomaly as determined by a nationally accredited approved

1	cleft-craniofacial team, approved by the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial
2	Association in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
3	(2) A nationally accredited approved cleft-craniofacial team for
4	cleft-craniofacial conditions shall:
5	(A) Evaluate persons a person with $\underline{a}$ craniofacial
6	anomalies anomaly; and
7	(B) Coordinate a treatment plan for each person.
8	(3) After one (1) denial or any limitation of coverage that is
9	based on the lack of medical necessity to improve a functional impairment,
10	the case shall be referred for an external review under State Insurance
11	Department Rule 76, the Arkansas External Review Regulation, if applicable,
12	or under a similar procedure for external review established by a third-party
13	administrator of a health benefit plan.
14	(b) Medical care coverage required under this section includes
15	coverage for corrective reconstructive surgery, dental care, vision care, and
16	the use of at least one (1) hearing aid.
17	
18	23-79-1503. Rules.
19	(a) The State Insurance Department shall develop and promulgate rules
20	for the implementation and administration of this subchapter.
21	(b) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board may
22	develop and promulgate rules for the administration of this subchapter for
23	the plans providing health benefits to state and public school employees
24	under § 21-5-401 et seq.
25	
26	
27	APPROVED: 03/10/2015
28	
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32	
33	
34	
35	
36	

Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

August 21, 2015

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette P O Box 2221 Little Rock, AR 72203

Attn: Ms. Pam Dicus, Legal Ad Department

Facsimile: 501-378-3591

RE: Legal Notices: Public Hearing on Proposed Rule # 111

Dear Ms. Dicus:

The Insurance Commissioner is proposing to adopt Rule 111, "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage." In order to publish it per the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, as amended, and per the Arkansas Insurance Code, we need to publish a FULL RUN legal ad or notice on the Commissioner's Public Hearing for the Rule set on September 29, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

In compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204 and § 16-3-102, please find enclosed a legal ad for Notice of Public Hearing which should be published for three (3) consecutive days beginning on or before August 24, 2015.

Please send the billing invoices to Mrs. Pam Looney, Assistant Commissioner, Accounting Division, Arkansas Insurance Department, 1200 West Third, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1904, accompanied by a printed copy of the Legal Ad and proof of publication. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely.

(signed by Booth Rand)

Booth Rand

Managing Attorney/Legal Division

booth.rand@arkansas.gov

LRR

Attachment – Legal Ad for Proposed Rule 111 Adoption

cc: LoRraine Rowland, Administrative Analyst



#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Arkansas Insurance Department will host a Public Hearing on September 29, 2015 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the First Floor Hearing Room, Arkansas Insurance Department, 1200 West Third Street (Third and Cross Streets), Little Rock, Arkansas, to consider adoption of proposed Rule 111, "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage." Copies of proposed Rule 111 may be obtained by writing or calling the Arkansas Insurance Department, or by visiting our Internet site at <a href="http://www.state.ar.us/insurance/legal/legal\_p1.html">http://www.state.ar.us/insurance/legal/legal\_p1.html</a>. Or <a href="http://www.state.ar.us/insurance/legal/legal\_p1.html">www.accessarkansas.org/insurance</a> for links there. For more information, please contact Ms. LoRraine Rowland, Legal Division, Arkansas Insurance Department at 501-371-2820.

# Arkansas Democrat To Gazetteceived

#### STATEMENT OF LEGAL ADVERTISING

3034266

AUG 3 1 2015

LEGAL ARKANSAS INSURANCE DEPT.

REMIT TO: ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, INC. P.O. BOX 2221 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203

**BILLING QUESTIONS CALL 378-3812** 

AD COPY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Arkansas Insurance Department will host a Public Hearing on September 29, 2015 beginnling at 9:00 a.m. In the First
Floor Hearing Boom, Arkansas Insurance Department, 1200 West
Third Street (Third and Cross
Streets), Little Rock, Arkansas, to
consider adoption of proposed
Rule 111, "Crainofacial Anomaly
Reconstructive Surgery
Coverage." Copies of proposed
Rule 111 may be obtained by
writing or calling the Arkansas Insurance Department, or by visiting our Internet site at

surface Department, or by visit-ing our Internet site at http://www.state.ar.us/insurance/ egal/legal\_p1.html. Or www.ac-cessarkansas.org/insurance for links there. For more informa-tion, please contact Ms. LoRraine

Rowland, Legal Division, Arkansas Insurance Department at 501-371-2820.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ARK INSURANCE DEPARTMENT 1200 W THIRD LITTLE ROCK AR 72201

ATTN: Pam Looney

DATE : 08/26/15

INVOICE #:

ACCT #: L801001

P.O. #:

STATE OF ARKANSAS, COUNTY OF PULASKI,

I, Katrina Walton, do solemnly swear that I am the Legal Billing Clerk of the Arkansas Democrat -Gazette, a daily newspaper printed and published in said County, State of Arkansas; that I was so related to this publication at and during the publication of the annexed legal advertisement in the matter of:

hearing pending in the Court, in said County, and at the dates of the several publications of said advertisement stated below, and that during said periods and at said dates, said newspaper was printed and had a bona fide circulation in said County; that said newspaper had been regularly printed and published in said County, and had a bona fide circulation therein for the period of one month before the date of the first publication of said advertisement; and that said advertisement was published in the regular daily issues of said newspaper as stated below.

DATE DAY LINAGE RATE 08/24 Mon 33 1.35 08/25 Tue 33 1.35 08/26 Wed 33 1.35

DATE DAY LINAGE RATE

TOTAL COST ----Billing Ad #: 73326857

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Notary Public

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THE ETTER PRICE

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OPPINIAL SEAL - X 72301364

wbscribed and sworn to me this

BENNIE J. FULLER NOTARY PUBLIC - ARKANSAS PULASKI COUNTY MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 3-21-2021 RECEIVED

AUG 27 2015

ACCOUNTING ARKANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT



#### **LoRraine Rowland**

om:

Arkansas Insurance Department

<insurance.legal=arkansas.gov@mail40.atl111.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Arkansas

Insurance Department <insurance.legal@arkansas.gov>

Sent:

Thursday, August 20, 2015 5:00 PM

To:

LoRraine Rowland

Subject:

Notice of Hearing: Proposed Rule 111

Notice of Hearing: ??Proposed Rule 111

View this email in your browser

## Arkansas Insurance Department

Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

## **Legal Notice**

Notice of Hearing Proposed Rule 111

Please click on the link below to view the Department's Proposed Rule 111 "CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY COVERAGE" and Notice of Hearing information.

http://insurance.arkansas.gov/prop-rules.htm

Direct your inquiries to the Legal Division at (501) 371-2820 or <a href="mailto:insurance.legal@arkansas.gov">insurance.legal@arkansas.gov</a>.



Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

August 21, 2015

#### HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Donna Davis Arkansas Legislative Council Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research State Capitol, Suite 315 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

RE: Proposed Rule 111: "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage"

Dear Ms. Davis:

Enclosed for your review and for filing with the Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, is proposed Rule 111, "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage."

The Arkansas Insurance Department ("Department") is proposing a Rule to implement Act 373 of 2015, "An Act To Modify Coverage for Craniofacial Reconstructive Coverage." The Act addresses authorizations of craniofacial services and treatment plans by American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association approved teams.

The Department has scheduled a public hearing for September 29, 2015, at 9:00 A.M., at the Arkansas Insurance Department, to consider adopting this proposed Rule.

I have enclosed a triplicate set of the proposed Rule, our Notice of Public Hearing, the standard Questionnaire, Financial Impact Statement as well as a summary of the proposed Rule.

18

Sincerety

Booth Rand Managing Attorney/Legal Division

booth.rand@arkansas.gov

RECEIVED

AUG 2 0 2015

BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

LoRraine Rowland, Administrative Analyst

BR/lrr

cc:

EXHIBIT 7

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FILING PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS WITH THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	Arkansas Insurance	Department				
DIVISION	Legal Division					
DIVISION DIRECTOR	Suzanne Tipton, Deputy Commissioner & General Counsel					
CONTACT PERSON						
ADDRESS	1200 West Third St	reet, Little Rock, Ark		2201-190	4	
PHONE NO. 501-371-2820 FAX NO. 501-371-2618 MAIL NAME OF PRESENTER AT COMMITTEE					nd@arkansas.gov	
MEETING  DDESENTED E MAIL 1.	4h d @1	Booth Rai	ind, Mana	aging Att	orney	
PRESENTER E-MAIL bo	ooth.rand@arkansas.g INSTF	RUCTIONS		***************************************		
<ul> <li>A. Please make copies of this form for future use.</li> <li>B. Please answer each question completely using layman terms. You may use additional sheets, if necessary.</li> <li>C. If you have a method of indexing your rules, please give the proposed citation after "Short Title of this Rule" below.</li> <li>D. Submit two (2) copies of this questionnaire and financial impact statement attached to the front of two (2) copies of the proposed rule and required documents. Mail or deliver to:  Donna K. Davis Administrative Rules Review Section Arkansas Legislative Council Bureau of Legislative Research One Capitol Mall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Little Rock, AR 72201</li> </ul>						
**************************************	nis	**************************************				
2. What is the subject of the proposed rule?  Procedures or process for qualifying for coverage under the State's craniofacial mandate law in Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1501 et seq						
3. Is this rule required to comply with a federal statute, rule, or regulation? Yes No No If yes, please provide the federal rule, regulation, and/or statute citation.				No 🛚		
4. Was this rule filed under the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, what is the effective date of the emergency rule?			No 🛚			
When does the emergency expire?	rule		We will be a second of the sec		EXHIBIT	

	Will this emergency rule be promulgated under the permanent provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act?  Yes No 🔀
5.	Is this a new rule? Yes No In If yes, please provide a brief summary explaining the regulation. See attached Summary.
	Does this repeal an existing rule? Yes \( \subseteq \text{No } \subseteq \) If yes, a copy of the repealed rule is to be included with your completed questionnaire. If it is being replaced with a new rule, please provide a summary of the rule giving an explanation of what the rule does. \( \text{N/A} \)
rul	Is this an amendment to an existing e?  Yes No No No If yes, please attach a mark-up showing the changes in the existing rule and a summary of the substantive changes. Note: The summary should explain what the amendment does, and the mark-up copy should be clearly labeled "mark-up."
6.	Cite the state law that grants the authority for this proposed rule? If codified, please give the Arkansas Code citation. This Rule is issued pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1503 which requires the Arkansas Insurance Department ("AID") to issue rules for the implementation and administration of coverage for craniofacial anomaly reconstructive surgery under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1501 et seq
the or	What is the purpose of this proposed rule? Why is it necessary? See attached Summary which explains a purpose of this proposed rule. Essentially, the purpose of the propose Rule is to establish a mechanism process to allow for more "approved cleft-craniofacial teams" to provide diagnoses and treatment plans a persons with this condition.
8.	Please provide the address where this rule is publicly accessible in electronic form via the Internet as required by Arkansas Code § 25-19-108(b). <a href="http://www.insurance.arkansas.gov/prop-rules.htm">http://www.insurance.arkansas.gov/prop-rules.htm</a>
9.	Will a public hearing be held on this proposed rule? Yes ⊠ No □
٠,	If yes, please complete the following:
	Date: September 29, 2015
	Time: 9:00 A.M.  Arkansas Insurance Department, 1200  West Third Street, Little Rock,
	Place: Arkansas
10 A	. When does the public comment period expire for permanent promulgation? (Must provide a date.) fter the hearing ends on September 29, 2015 unless the Commissioner decides to keep the record open longer to receive comments.
11	. What is the proposed effective date of this proposed rule? (Must provide a date.)
	ovember 23, 2015
12	. Do you expect this rule to be controversial? Yes \( \square\) No \( \square\)

Please give the names of persons	groups, or organizations that you expect to comment on these rules

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_

13. Please give the names of persons, groups, or organizations that you expect to comment on these rules? Please provide their position (for or against) if known.We do not know of these persons or groups at this time, but will update this information in public comment summaries after the public hearing on September 29, 2015.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY

DEPARTMENT Arkansas Insurance Department							
	VISIO		Legal Division				
PE]	RSON	COMPLE'	TING THIS ST	FATEMENT ]	Booth Rand, Managing At	torney	
TE	LEPH	ONE NO.	501-519-0484	FAX NO. 501	-371-2618 <b>EMAIL</b> : boot	h.rand@ark	ansas.gov
To Sta	comp atemer	ly with Ark. at and file tw	Code Ann. § 2: o copies with the	5-15-204(e), ple ne questionnaire	ase complete the following and proposed rules.	Financial I	mpact
SH	IORT	TITLE OF	THIS RULE	Rule 109: Orti	notic and Prosthetic Reimb	ursement	water the contract of the cont
1.	Does	this propose	ed, amended, or	repealed rule ha	we a financial impact?	Yes 🛚	No 🗌
2.	. Is the rule based on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, or other evidence and information available concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule?  Yes  No						No 🗌
			of the alternatives to this rule, was this rule determined by the least costly rule considered?		Yes 🖂	No 🗌	
	If an	agency is pr	oposing a more costly rule, please state the following:				
(a) How the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional cost;							
	(b) The reason for adoption of the more costly rule;						
(c) Whether the more costly rule is based on the interests of public health, safety, or welfare, if so, please explain; and;				welfare, and			
(d) Whether the reason is within the scope of the agency's statutory authority; and if explain.			so, please				
4.	If the (a)				rule or regulation, please starule or regulation?	te the follow	ring:
	Cur	rent Fiscal	Year		Next Fiscal Year		
	Gen Fede Casl Spec	eral Revenueral Funds h Funds cial Revenue er (Identify)	N/A N/A N/A		General Revenue Federal Funds Cash Funds Special Revenue Other (Identify)		EXHIBIT

Total	444-444	Total	######################################
(b) What is the a	dditional cost of the state rule?		
Current Fiscal	<u>Year</u>	Next Fiscal Year	
General Revenue Federal Funds Cash Funds Special Revenue Other (Identify)	N/A N/A	General Revenue Federal Funds Cash Funds Special Revenue Other (Identify)	
Total	N/A	Total	
the proposed, ame explain how they		private individual, entine entity(ies) subject to	ty and business subject to the proposed rule and
Current Fiscal Year	<u>r</u>	Next Fiscal Y	<u>ear</u>
\$ Unknown		\$	*****
We do not know righ	nt now what the exact cost impact to timent will create but we do not be	o insurers and health be	enefit plans this
as soon as available.	innent win create but we do not be	neve it significant and v	will update this information
implement this ruaffected.  Current Fiscal Yea  None	-	or grant? Please expla  Next Fiscal Y  \$	in how the government is
We already review the	nese mandates with current staffing	<u></u>	
or obligation of a private entity, pri	he agency's answers to Questions at least one hundred thousand dollar ivate business, state government, cof those entities combined?	rs (\$100,000) per year t	to a private individual,
		Yes 🛛 No 🗌	
	cy is required by Ark. Code Ann. §		
_	financial impact statement. The vill impact statement and shall include	ritten findings shall be	filed simultaneously
with the financia	*	ritten findings shall be	filed simultaneously

- (3) a description of the factual evidence that:
  - (a) justifies the agency's need for the proposed rule; and
  - (b) describes how the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs;
- (4) a list of less costly alternatives to the proposed rule and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (5) a list of alternatives to the proposed rule that were suggested as a result of public comment and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (6) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule and, if existing rules have created or contributed to the problem, an explanation of why amendment or repeal of the rule creating or contributing to the problem is not a sufficient response; and
- (7) an agency plan for review of the rule no less than every ten (10) years to determine whether, based upon the evidence, there remains a need for the rule including, without limitation, whether:
  - (a) the rule is achieving the statutory objectives;
  - (b) the benefits of the rule continue to justify its costs; and
  - (c) the rule can be amended or repealed to reduce costs while continuing to achieve the statutory objectives.

# ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT OF PROPOSED RULES OR REGULATIONS

**EO 05-04: Regulatory Flexibility** 

Department: Arkansas Insurance Department

Contact Person: Booth Rand

**Contact Phone:** 501-371-2820

Division: Legal

**Date:** August 21, 2015

Contact Email: booth.rand@arkansas.gov

#### Title or Subject:

Proposed Rule 111 "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage"

#### Benefits of the Proposed Rule or Regulation

1. Explain the need for the proposed change(s). Did any complaints motivate you to pursue regulatory action? If so, please explain the nature of such complaints.

The proposed rule is needed to help persons with craniofacial conditions to more easily and quickly obtain a diagnosis and approved treatment plan to comply with the state's craniofacial mandate law under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1501 et seq., recently amended by Act 373 of 2015 (hereafter, the "Craniofacial Coverage Law"). The Craniofacial Coverage Law requires subject health insurers and health plans to cover medically necessary surgery and treatment for persons diagnosed with a craniofacial anomaly. To have this coverage mandate apply, a person is required to be diagnosed as having a craniofacial anomaly by a "cleft-craniofacial team," approved by a national approval organization, the "American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association," (APCA). Currently, there are only two (2) approved APCA teams in this State which provide the diagnoses and treatment plans for such persons. This proposed rule is needed to also permit diagnostic and treatment plan approvals by APCA approved teams outside the State of Arkansas, to more quickly expedite diagnoses and treatment plan approvals. The surgeries and treatments would still have to be performed in this State although the diagnoses and approved treatment plans could be approved outside of this State.

- 2. What are the top three benefits of the proposed rule or regulation?
  - 1. Because the proposed rule allows for more APCA approved teams to provide diagnoses and treatment plan approvals, this expedites insurance coverage treatments and services for affected persons.
  - 2. Reduces work load and the pending volume of reviews by the limited number of approved APCA teams we have in Arkansas.
  - 3. Better clarifies the diagnostic and treatment plan approval and review process than is explained in the Craniofacial Coverage Law itself.

3. What, in your estimation, would be the consequence of taking no action, thereby maintaining the status quo?

Delays in persons qualifying for coverage and therefore receiving medical services under the craniofacial mandate because of delays in diagnostic and treatment plan approvals.

4. Describe market-based alternatives or voluntary standards that were considered in place of the proposed regulation and state the reason(s) for not selecting those alternatives.

None.

#### Impact of Proposed Rule or Regulation

5. Estimate the cost to state government of collecting information, completing paperwork, filing, recordkeeping, auditing and inspecting associated with this new rule or regulation.

None.

6. What types of small businesses will be required to comply with the proposed rule or regulation? Please estimate the number of small businesses affected.

None.

7. Does the proposed regulation create barriers to entry? If so, please describe those barriers and why those barriers are necessary.

None.

8. Explain the additional requirements with which small business owners will have to comply and estimate the costs associated with compliance.

None.

9. State whether the proposed regulation contains different requirements for different sized entities, and explain why this is, or is not, necessary.

None.

10. Describe your understanding of the ability of small business owners to implement changes required by the proposed regulation.

The propose Rule does not require "small business owners" to implement provisions in the proposed Rule.

11. How does this rule or regulation compare to similar rules and regulations in other states or the federal government?

This proposed rule is not patterned after any state or federal rule or law or model. It is AID's understanding that our Craniofacial Coverage Law, and any implementing rule, is unique to require craniofacial anomaly diagnoses and treatment plan approvals by APCA approved teams. The requirement exists to improve the standards, quality and outcomes for patients with this condition.

12. Provide a summary of the input your agency has received from small business or small business advocates about the proposed rule or regulation.

None so far as of the date of filing. We will be glad to submit this summary and comments as soon as, or if we receive them.

#### **SUMMARY**

# AID PROPOSED RULE 111: CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY COVERAGE

- The proposed rule is needed to help persons with craniofacial conditions to more easily and quickly obtain a diagnosis and approved treatment plan to comply with the state's craniofacial mandate law under Ark. Code Ann. § 23-79-1501 et seq., recently amended by Act 373 of 2015 (hereafter, the "Craniofacial Coverage Law"). The Craniofacial Coverage Law requires subject health insurers and health plans to cover medically necessary surgery and treatment for persons diagnosed with a craniofacial anomaly. To have this coverage mandate apply, a person is required to be diagnosed as having a craniofacial anomaly by a "cleft-cranofacial team," approved by a national approval organization, the "American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association," (APCA).
- Currently, there are only two (2) approved APCA teams in this
   State which provide the diagnoses and treatment plans for such persons, only one of which is for adults.
- This proposed rule is needed to permit diagnostic and treatment plan approvals by APCA approved teams outside the State of Arkansas, and this may help reduce delays for these diagnoses and treatment plan approvals, to more quickly expedite diagnoses and treatment plan approvals.
- The surgeries and treatments would still have to be performed in this State by qualified and licensed medical providers subject to



supervision by approved teams, although the diagnoses and approved treatment plans could be approved outside of this State.

Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

August 21, 2015

Ms. Sara Farris, ESQ. Office of the Attorney General 323 Center Street, Suite 200 Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Arkansas Insurance **Department** Rule 111: "Craniofacial **Anomaly** Reconstructive Surgery Coverage"

Dear Ms. Farris:

Enclosed for your review is the Arkansas Insurance Department's proposed Rule 111, "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage."

The Arkansas Insurance Department ("Department") is proposing a Rule to implement Act 373 of 2015, "An Act To Modify Coverage for Craniofacial Reconstructive Coverage." The Act addresses authorizations of craniofacial services and treatment plans by American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association approved teams.

The Department has scheduled a public hearing for September 29, 2015, at 9:00 A.M., at the Arkansas Insurance Department, to consider adopting this proposed Rule.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 371-2820 if you have any questions.

Booth Rand

Managing Attorney/Legal Division

booth.rand@arkansas.gov

cc: LoRraine Rowland, Administrative Analyst

Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

August 21, 2015

Arkansas Secretary of State State Capitol Building Little Rock, AR 72201 Attn. Arkansas Register

Re: Rule 111, "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage"

Dear Secretary:

Arkansas Act 1478 of 2003 adds to requirements for adoption and re-adoption of public agency rules and regulations. In that regard, the new Act:

- (a) Requires notice of proposed Rule 111, as well as the Public Rule Hearing at the Arkansas Insurance Department, to be published by the Arkansas Secretary Of State on the Internet for thirty (30) days pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-218 of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, as amended; and
- (b) Requires DOI filing of its adopted and proposed rules and notices with the Arkansas Secretary Of State in an electronic format acceptable to the Secretary.

In that regard, the Department has scheduled a public hearing as to proposed adoption of Rule 111. Enclosed are the DOI Notices of Public Hearing and a copy of the proposed rule.

Please arrange to publish the information in a format acceptable to the Secretary for at least 30 days in advance. Can you send us confirmation that we can use in the transcript as a public hearing exhibit?

An electronic filing will be made within the statutorily required 7 days. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

LoRraine Rowland

Administrative Analyst/Legal Division

Lorraine.rowland@arkansas.gov

371-2820

Enclosures



Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

August 21, 2015

VIA STATE MESSENGER

Mr. Carlton Saffa Regulatory Liaison Office of the Governor State Capitol Building Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Arkansas Insurance Department Proposed Rule 111: Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage

Dear Mr. Saffa:

Carlton, as previously sent to the Governor's office for review, please find enclosed for your review is the Arkansas Insurance Department's proposed Rule 111, "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage." As per your email to the Insurance Commissioner, the Governor's office authorized the Department to begin promulgation of this proposed Rule on July 30, 2015. The Arkansas Insurance Department ("Department") is proposing a Rule to implement Act 373 of 2015, "An Act To Modify Coverage for Craniofacial Reconstructive Coverage." The Act addresses authorizations of craniofacial services and treatment plans by American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association approved teams.

I'm sending you this letter because the Arkansas Insurance Department ("Department") separately and routinely provides the Governor's office, AG's office, Secretary of State's office and Economic Development Commission with copies of our proposed Rules when we institute rule-making.

The Department has scheduled a public hearing for September 29, 2015, at 9:00 A.M., at the Arkansas Insurance Department, to consider adopting this proposed Rule.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 371-2820 if you have any questions.

Booth Rand

Sincereta

Managing Attorney/Legal Division

booth.rand@arkansas.gov

cc: LoRraine Rowland, Administrative Analyst

Asa Hutchinson Governor



Allen Kerr Commissioner

August 21, 2015

Ms. Pat Brown Economic Development Commission One Capitol Mall Little Rock, AR 72202

RE: Arkansas Insurance Department Rule 111: "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage"

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed for your review is the Arkansas Insurance Department's proposed Rule 111, "Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage."

The Arkansas Insurance Department ("Department") is proposing a Rule to implement Act 373 of 2015, "An Act To Modify Coverage for Craniofacial Reconstructive Coverage." The Act addresses authorizations of craniofacial services and treatment plans by American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association approved teams.

The Department has scheduled a public hearing for September 29, 2015, at 9:00 A.M., at the Arkansas Insurance Department, to consider adopting this proposed Rule.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 371-2820 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

LoRraine Rowland

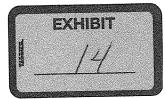
Administrative Analyst/Legal Division

Lorraine.rowland@arkansas.gov

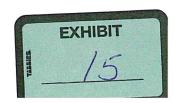
501-371-2831

**Enclosures** 

LRR/



# PUBLIC COMMENTS





September 28, 2015

Booth Rand
Managing Attorney
Arkansas Insurance Department
1200 W. Third St
Little Rock, AR 72201
Via email: Booth.Rand@arkansas.gov

Dear Mr. Rand:

This letter is in support of Proposed Rule 111, Craniofacial Anomaly Reconstructive Surgery Coverage.

As a practicing prosthodontist in the State of Arkansas I have treated hundreds of craniofacial patients in the past 20 years. The majority of my craniofacial patients struggled with the financial aspect associated with reconstructive surgery. I am pleased to see in Rule 111 that the guidelines insure comprehensive care by qualified specialists with oversight from member(s) of the national craniofacial teams. The overall quality of life for these patients will certainly improve with the enforcement of Act 1226 and Act 373. Our patient base in Northwest Arkansas is sincerely appreciative of the State of Arkansas taking the initiative to institute these Acts.

We sincerely appreciate the leadership and effort from Commissioner Allen Kerr and of yourself in support of craniofacial patients.

Sincerely,

Dean McNeel, DDS

Dean Minul Dos

### Hearing Testimony List In The Matter Of

## PROPOSED RULE 111 "CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY RECONSTRUCTIVE COVERAGE"

#### September 29, 2015 9:00 A.M.

## HEARING ATTENDEE LIST IN THE MATTER OF:

# PROPOSED RULE 111 "CRANIOFACIAL ANOMALY RECONSTRUCTIVE COVERAGE"

#### September 29, 2015 9:00 A.M.

## Russ Galbraith, Chief Deputy Commissioner and Hearing Officer

Name	Address	Phone
Ragraine Pall	AID	371-2820
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Kolut Euleburg	Hot Speings	624-2172
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